

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of generating a file suitable for programming a programmable logic device, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for said programmable logic device;

(B) storing said programming item in a programming field of said file in response to generating; and

(C) storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein storing is storing a frequency parameter in said non-programming field.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of second storing one of said parameters in a second non-programming field of said file.

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4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said second storing is storing a frequency parameter in said second non-programming field.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an error detection item; and

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said error detection item is a cyclic redundancy check checksum.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said cyclic redundancy check checksum is configured to detect a bit swap within said file.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing an identification item configured to identify said programmable logic device in a second non-programming field of said file.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of bracketing said non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating an error detection item;

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file;

storing another of said parameters in a third non-programming field of said file;

storing an identification item in a fourth non-programming field of said file; and

bracketing a combination of said non-programming field, said second non-programming field, said third non-programming field, and said fourth non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

11. A storage medium for use in a computer to generate a file suitable for programming a programmable logic device, the storage medium recording a computer program that is readable and executable by the computer, the computer program comprising:,  
5 comprising the steps of:

(A) generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for said programmable logic device;

(B) storing said programming item in a programming field of said file in response to generating; and  
10

(C) storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.

12. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein storing is storing a frequency parameter in said non-programming field.

13. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of second storing one of said parameters in a second non-programming field of said file.

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14. The storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said second storing is storing a frequency parameter in said second non-programming field.

15. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the steps of:

generating an error detection item; and

storing said error detection item in a second non-programming field of said file.

16. The storage medium according to claim 15, wherein said error detection item is a cyclic redundancy check checksum.

17. The storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said cyclic redundancy check checksum is configured to detect a bit swap within said file.

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18. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of storing an identification item configured to identify said programmable logic device in a second non-programming field of said file.

19. The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of bracketing said non-programming field with a pair of delimiters.

20. A system comprising:

means for generating a programming item from a plurality of parameters that define a program for a programmable logic device;

5 means for storing said programming item in a programming field of a file suitable for programming said programmable logic device; and

means for storing at least one of said parameters in a non-programming field of said file.